Landmark National Grant Awarded to Teresa Woodruff, PhD

Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine has been awarded a $21 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a landmark national research, clinical and education program that targets fertility threats posed to women by cancer treatment. The program, called The Oncofertility Consortium, is headed by leading fertility researcher Teresa Woodruff, PhD, Thomas J. Watkins Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and chief of the Feinberg School’s newly created fertility preservation division. She coined the term oncofertility to define the pioneering new discipline in which cancer treatment and fertility health intersect.

The program is being funded by the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, an effort to integrate aspects of different disciplines to address health challenges that have been resistant to traditional research approaches. The goal of the new program is to alter how the medical world cares for female cancer patients whose ability to conceive children is often destroyed by chemotherapy and radiation, and promote a new consciousness to protect their reproductive health. “We’re trying to create a total shift in how we interact with female cancer patients to anticipate their lives as survivors and their ability to bear children,” said Woodruff, who is the architect of the new consortium and a Lurie Cancer Center member.

The Oncofertility Consortium is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of biomedical and social scientists, oncologists, pediatricians, engineers, educators, social workers and medical ethicists from Northwestern, the University of California-San Diego, University of Pennsylvania, University of Missouri-Columbia and Oregon Health & Science University. Its research will include a thorough examination of the scientific, medical, psychological, legal and ethical issues surrounding infertility and cancer. For additional information please visit cancer.northwestern.edu or oncofertility.northwestern.edu

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Thomas O’Halloran Named Associate Director for Basic Sciences

Thomas V. O’Halloran, PhD, widely known for his interdisciplinary research program which involves chemical synthesis, inorganic chemistry biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology, has been named Associate Director for Basic Sciences at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. He is currently the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor in the Department of Chemistry and in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology at Northwestern and serves as Director of the new Chemistry of Life Processes Institute at Northwestern.

(continued on page 3)
Inpatient Cancer Care Moves to new Prentice Women’s Hospital

Inpatient treatment for cancer patients receiving care at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital has moved to the new Prentice Women’s Hospital, 250 E. Superior Street. Lurie Cancer Center physicians care for medical oncology and hematology inpatients, as well as women receiving treatment for gynecologic cancers, on specially designed floors dedicated to the needs of cancer patients.

Radiation Oncology and Palliative Care are also located at Prentice, as well as the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center. The combined services of breast imaging (screening and diagnostic mammography) and breast surgery evaluation (breast clinic) make Lynn Sage the largest comprehensive breast center in the Midwest.

Share the Holiday Spirit!

The Lurie Cancer Center is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children treated by our Radiation Oncology Department. Boxes are available for drop off through December 17th near the staff elevator on the 21st floor of Galter Pavilion, on the 3rd floor of the Lurie Medical Research Center, on the 15th floor of Prentice and the 12th floor of 676 N. St. Clair. Your gift will brighten a child’s holiday!

Corporate Standards Update:

Lurie Cancer Center is the official secondary reference to be used in regard to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer of Northwestern University. No other derivation of the formal name should be used in publications, documents or on the web. Please contact Jennifer Bowker at j-bowker@northwestern.edu or 312.695.0502 with questions.

National Cancer Institute Gives Lurie Cancer Center its Highest Rating

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University was recently awarded a $25.6 million five-year renewal of its Cancer Center Support (Core) Grant by the National Cancer Institute—among the largest awards ever received by Northwestern. With this grant, the Lurie Cancer Center maintains its status as the only NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center in Illinois.

“We are honored by the NCI’s continued recognition of our advances in cancer research, as well as our commitment to providing patients with the highest level of prevention, diagnosis, therapy and care,” said Steven T. Rosen, MD, Director of the Lurie Cancer Center. “We also take great pride in our role as a community and regional resource for cancer information, education and outreach.”

The Lurie Cancer Center met and exceeded rigorous national standards and stood up to extensive peer review in order to maintain its place as one of only 39 Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation. The five-year grant, the maximum amount of time a comprehensive cancer center may receive, provides financial support for essential infrastructure and facilities that foster research collaboration and innovation. Comprehensive Cancer Centers are viewed as models of unparalleled discovery, development and delivery.
New Monthly Meetings for Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Appointees

A new organization is being formed offering postdoctoral fellows and research appointees interested in cancer biology the opportunity to meet on a monthly basis. A Northwestern University faculty member will be invited to each meeting to present his/her scientific interests and discuss other issues with the group.

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24 from 5 to 6 p.m., and will feature Dr. Steve Rosen in the Gray Conference Room, Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center. A light dinner will be provided. For additional information and to be placed on the group’s mailing list please contact Dr. Malathy Shanmugam at mala@northwestern.edu.

Northwestern University Animal Models for Disease

The Lurie Cancer Center has created a website to foster collaborations between researchers currently using or wishing to use animal models of cancer initiation, growth, progression and metastasis. Please post information about models currently in your laboratory, your willingness to discuss the genotype or phenotype of that model or make it available to the Northwestern community. Since this is an internal site, no loss of confidentiality or intellectual property should be inferred from the release of information to this site. For additional information visit: models.cancer.northwestern.edu.

New Cancer Prevention Travel Scholarship Program

A new Cancer Prevention Travel Scholarship Program is available for doctoral and postdoctoral fellows with an interest in laboratory, clinical, population or behavioral research with implications for cancer prevention or survivorship. The award provides the recipient with $500 for the cost of travel and attendance to present their results at scientific meetings.

The criteria and application deadline of March 7, 2008 is the same for this new program as it is for the Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship and the Center for Genetic Medicine (CGM) Travel Fellowship. Visit cancer.northwestern.edu/education/travelgrants.cfm for the application and additional information, or contact Denise Marshall at d-marshall4@northwestern.edu or 312.695.1304.

Application will be posted on the website by December 21, 2007.

Travel Fellowship Award Winners Named

The Katten Muchin Rosenman Travel Scholarship Program and the Center for Genetic Medicine Travel Fellowship Review Committee would like to congratulate the following Rosenman/CGM award recipients:

Graduate Students
Eric Brown (Rosenman)
Ryan Hobbs (CGM)
Sarah Hurst (Rosenman)
Rita Nokes (Rosenman)
Minjong Park (CGM)
Diana Rosman (Rosenman)

Post-Docs
Bhushan Desai, PhD (Rosenman)
Milan Joksimovic, PhD (CGM)
Monika Stankiewic, PhD (Rosenman)

(O’Halloran Named Associate Director - continued from page 1)

Dr. O’Halloran replaces Teresa K. Woodruff, PhD, the Thomas J. Watkins Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a groundbreaking leader in fertility research, who steps down to focus on her roles as Executive Director of the Institute for Women’s Health Research, Chief of the newly created Division of Fertility Preservation, Director of the Center for Reproductive Research and Principle Investigator of the landmark Oncofertility Consortium grant.

The Associate Director for Basic Sciences Research is appointed by and reports to the Director of the Lurie Cancer Center. The position is responsible for the development and coordination of the five basic science research programs, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and inter-programmatic interactions. The Associate Director is part of the Lurie Cancer Center’s Executive Committee and Leadership Group, playing a key role in setting strategic direction, policy and priorities. In addition, this position is responsible for directing the development and operation of the Lurie Cancer Center basic research laboratory facility on the Evanston Campus in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.
Professional Programs

More information online at cancer.northwestern.edu/education. All events take place in Chicago unless noted.

Unraveling the Mysteries of Clinical Trials
December 6, 2007
Sponsored by the American Cancer Society

Oncology Nursing Conference
December 7, 2007
Chairs: Kara Catsaros, RN and Vicki Maurer, RN

Oncofertility Consortium Conference
December 9 and 10, 2007 - Chair: Teresa Woodruff, PhD

San Antonio Review/NCCN Breast Cancer Guidelines
January 18, 2008 - Chair: William Gradishar, MD

Translational Research & Cancer Prevention and Control Minisymposium
Lung Cancer: Challenges and Targets for Control
January 30, 2008
Chairs: Sue Gapstur, PhD and Jill Pelling, PhD

Colon, Rectal and Anal NCCN Guidelines
ASCO GI Review
February 15, 2008 - Chair: Al B. Benson, III, MD

Pain & Palliative Care Conference
March 2008 - Chair: Judy Paice, PhD, RN

FSM Alumni Conference
April 25, 2008 - Chair: Steven Rosen, MD

5th International Chicago Lymphoma Symposium
April 26, 2008
Co-sponsored with the University of Chicago

Patient Programs and Events

More information online at cancer.northwestern.edu/events.

Monthly Cancer Support & Advocacy Information Fairs
Galter Pavilion, 21st Floor - 11 am to 2 pm unless noted
December 5, 2007 - Featured topic: Survivorship*
December 6, 2007 - Featured topic: Survivorship
January 9, 2008 - Featured topic: Liver tumors
February 7, 2008 - Featured topic: Brain tumors
March 12, 2008 - Featured topic: Colorectal cancers
* 10 am to 1 pm

CTCL Public Education Symposium
March 5, 2008

Cancer Survivors’ Celebration & Walk
June 1, 2008

Biospecimen Best Practices Forum
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) will hold a public forum about the NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources, which outlines technical, operational, ethical, legal and policy principles for biospecimen resources. The purpose of these forums is to educate and obtain feedback about the NCI Best Practices from a broad range of perspectives, including that of investigators, physicians, industry representatives, hospital administrators, cancer survivors, patient advocates, and the general public. The forum will feature expert presentations and interactive discussions. Attendance is free and light refreshments will be provided. For registration and information visit www.nci-bestpractices-forum.com.

Monday, December 3, 2007 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Feinberg Pavilion, 3rd floor conference center, Chicago Campus

Noteworthy
Friends and family of Northwestern’s Brain Tumor Support Group formed Team Survivor: Chicago to take part in the American Brain Tumor Association’s 2nd Annual Path to Progress 5K Run/Walk. With 129 members, Team Survivor was one of the largest teams to participate and the top fundraising team of the event—raising more than $40,000 for brain tumor research!
Awards and Honors

Hematology / Oncology nurse Lora DeQueredo is the winner of the 2007 Vicki Maurer Nursing Award. She was honored by her colleagues at a reception on Galter 21.

Leo Gordon, MD, Abby and John Friend Professor of Cancer Research and Professor of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine, was selected to receive the 2007 Stephen A. Weisman Humanitarian Award for Cancer Care. This honor is given by the Cancer Wellness Center to a physician who exemplifies extraordinary qualities of caring for patients.

William Gradishar, MD, Professor of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Director of Breast Medical Oncology at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University received the Arthur G. Michel, MD, Award for Excellence in Breast Cancer Care. The award is given by the Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization in memory of Dr. Arthur G. Michel for outstanding dedication to the care and treatment of breast cancer.

Mary Hendrix, PhD, President and Scientific Director, Children’s Memorial Research Center, was honored with the 2007 Murray L. Bard Award from the University of Western Ontario. The award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to medical science.

Colleen Hermanek, RN, OCN and Rochelle Lucero, RN, OCN earned Oncology Certification from the Oncology Nursing Society.

Jonathan D. Licht, MD, Professor and Chief of the Division of Hematology / Oncology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Associate Director of Clinical Sciences at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, was named the Johanna Dobe Professor in Hematology / Oncology.

The University honored Daniel Rademacher, Eric Odulio and Matthew Ruchin with Service Excellence Awards presented by Dr. Steve Rosen and Ann Lurie at a celebration for members of the grants and contracts team of the operations group. This award acknowledges the team’s efforts assisting departments outside of the Lurie Cancer Center; including a proposal by Dr. Wayne Anderson that resulted in a N01 contract for $31 million dollars over five years and Dr. Seema Khan’s AVON project which was awarded $2 million dollars for two years.

Joanna Lamott, RN and Jessica Palis, RN were each awarded Chapman Nursing Scholarships to complete ongoing research.

Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology at the Feinberg School of Medicine and Deputy Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, was elected President of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research.

Dean Ho, PhD, Assistant Professor, Departments of Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, won a V Foundation for Cancer Research Grant for his study of Active Nanodiamond Hydrogels for Directed Chemotherapeutic Delivery.

Timothy Volpe, the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University’s Associate Director for Administration and a 22-year American Cancer Society volunteer, received the 2007 St. George Medal from the Society at its recent statewide volunteer conference. The highest honor awarded by the American Cancer Society, the St. George Medal is given in recognition of outstanding leadership, service and commitment to the American Cancer Society. Volpe has served as a Society volunteer at the local and division levels and is a former chairman of the board for the Society’s Illinois Division.
Tumor Cell Biology Seminars
Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium, 303 East Superior, Chicago, IL
Thursdays - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

December 6
The Regulation of T Cell Development and Leukemogenesis by Ikaros: Mechanism of Action through Notch
Susan Winandy, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology-Immunology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

December 13
MTA1 Family of Master Chromatin Modifiers in Human Cancer
Rakesh Kumar, PhD, Professor and Deputy Chairman, Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center - Houston, TX

December 20 and 27
No seminar - Winter Holiday

January 10
Student Lecture. The Perinucleolar Compartment: Association with Malignancy, Studies on Function and Development as a Drug Discovery Marker
John Norton, IGP Student, Department of Cell and Molecular Biology (Dr. Sui Huang’s Lab)
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

January 17
Student Lecture. ICSBP Haplo-Insufficiency Synergizes with SHP2-Activation for Apoptosis Resistance and Cytokine Hypersensitivity in Meloid Progenitors
Iwona Konieczna, PhD Student, Division of Hematology/Oncology (Dr. Elizabeth Eklund’s Lab)
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

January 24
DNA Adduct Stereochemistry & p53-Mdm2 Signal Transduction in Cancer Cell Death
Jill Bargonetti, PhD, Professor, Biological Sciences
Hunter College, City University of New York - New York, NY
Host: Robin Leikin, PhD

January 31
Characterizing the Mammalian Epigenome
Bradley Bernstein, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology
Harvard University - Cambridge, MA
Host: John Crispino, PhD

February 7
TBA
Nissim Hay, MD
University of Illinois at Chicago
Host: Leon Platanias, MD, PhD

February 14 and 21
TBA

February 28
Student Lecture. TBA
Mark Rovedo
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

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Credit Designation Statement: The Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds are on Fridays from 8 am to 9 am in the Gray Seminar Room of the Lurie Research Medical Center 303 E. Superior, Chicago, IL (unless otherwise noted).
Contact Denise Marshall at 312.695.1392 or d-marshall4@northwestern.edu.

December 7 No Grand Rounds-ASH Conference

December 14 HIV and HPV Infections in Rwandan Women: Implications for Global Policy
Diljeet Singh, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

December 21 and 28 Winter Holiday-No Grand Rounds

January 4 TBA
Amy Halverson, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

January 11 Personalized Therapy in Lung Cancer-Fact or Fiction
Gerald Bepler, MD, PhD, Program Leader and Division Chief, Thoracic Oncology
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute -Tampa, FL
Host: Jyoti Patel, MD

January 18 NCCN Breast Cancer Review

January 25 TBA
James Brandman, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

February 1 TBA

February 8 TBA
Andrew Evens, DO, Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

February 15 ASCO GI Symposium

February 22 TBA
Jane Winter, MD, Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

February 29 Correlates and Consequences of Discussion about End-of-Life (EOL) Care Between Advanced Cancer Patients and Their Physicians
Holly Prigerson, PhD, Director of Psycho-Oncology Research
Dana Farber Cancer Institute - Boston, MA
Host: Josh Hauser, MD

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Cancer Center Appoints New Members

Steven T. Rosen, MD, FACP, director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, announces the following full member appointments:

**Laura K. Bianchi, MD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research focus is on early detection and prevention of GI malignancies. Her office is 2650 Ridge Ave., G208, Evanston.

Contact Dr. Bianchi at 847.657.1900 or lbianchi@enh.org.

**Pedram Gerami, MD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Dermatology, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research interests include the study of cutaneous lymphomas on a clinical, histological, molecular diagnostic and basic science level. His office is 676 N. St. Clair, #1600, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Gerami at 312.695.6781 or pgerami@nmff.org.

**Nobuko Hijiya, MD** is an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research focus is on the treatment and clinical trials of childhood leukemias; with an emphasis on acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her office is 2300 Children’s Plaza, #30, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Hijiya at 773.880.4562 or n-hijiya@northwestern.edu.

**Lawrence Jennings, MD, PhD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Director of Molecular Diagnostics, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research is translational and focused on identifying biomarkers and developing molecular assays for diagnosis, prognosis and minimal residual testing. His office is in the Annex, 2300 Children’s Plaza, #222, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Jennings at 773.880.8290 or ljennings@childrensmemorial.org.

**Khashayarhsa Khazie, PhD, DSc** is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is on developing animal models that closely resemble human cancer and exploiting these models to understand the mechanisms underlying immune evasion and cooperation with cancer. His office is 303 E. Superior St., 3-111, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Khazaie at 312.503.1903 or khazaie@northwestern.edu.

**Robert Lewandowski, MD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is liver-directed therapy for primary/metastatic cancer; primarily percutaneous ablative therapies, including radiofrequency ablation, cryoablation, as well as transcatheter therapies. His office is 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 800, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Lewandowski at 312.695.9121 or r-lewandowski@northwestern.edu.

**Alexander Minella, MD** is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is the mechanisms that regulate the cell division cycle and how these, when deregulated, contribute to tumorigenesis. His office is 303 E. Superior St., 5-115, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Minella at 312.503.1679 or a-minella@northwestern.edu.

**William Muller, MD, PhD** is Chairman of the Department of Pathology, Feinberg School of Medicine. His research focus is on the molecular and cellular basis of inflammation; in particular those regulating leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions during the inflammatory response. His office is at 303 E. Chicago Ave., 6-204, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Muller at 312.503.8144 or wamuller@northwestern.edu.

**Melissa A. Simon, MD, MPH** is an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research focus is on empowering underserved women to overcome reproductive health disparities, especially in the area of cancers related to reproductive health. Her office is at 680 N. Lake Shore Dr., #1015, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Simon at 312.695.2653 or m-simon2@northwestern.edu.

**Qiang Zhang, MD, PhD** is a research assistant professor in the Department of Urology, Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Zhang’s research interests include prostate cancer immunotherapy by adoptive transfer of tumor reactive TGF-beta-insensitive CD8+ T cells and methylation of the promoters of TGF-beta receptors. His office is at 303 E. Chicago Ave., 16-735, Chicago.

Contact Dr. Zhang at 312.908.7963 or q-zhang2@northwestern.edu.
Shaan K. Trotter has joined the Lurie Cancer Center as Director of Health Disparities and Special Populations Initiatives. Shaan is responsible for development and implementation of programs and initiatives that support the Lurie Cancer Center’s commitment to community outreach, particularly as it impacts under-served populations. He can be reached at 312-695-1385 or s-trotter@northwestern.edu.

Jared Flatow  
Systems Analyst / Programmer  
Bioinformatics

Michelle Schlender  
Coordinator of Clinical Research  
Clinical Research Office

Emily Malleis  
Coordinator of clinical Research  
CRO

Nick Talarico  
Research Technologist 2  
Pathology

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Lurie Cancer Center Weekly Updates

Information to be considered for inclusion in the Cancer Center’s weekly e-mail updates must be received at least one week in advance. Submit suggestions to Denise Marshall at d-marhsall4@northwestern.edu.